

with our young people as an instructor in the Huron Valley District Congress of Christian Education, and is currently teaching in the Renaissance Christian Leadership School under the National Baptist U.S.A. Sunday School Publishing Board.

Pastor Ferrell has been a trusted leader, a wise teacher, a loving husband, father and grandfather, and a dear friend to many. Deborah and I are not alone in celebrating the long, meaningful and positive impact that Pastor Ferrell and his lovely family have had in my district.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday January 23, 2012 I was unavoidably absent from the House Chamber. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 5 and 6.

IN MEMORIAM OF REPRESENTATIVE ED JENKINS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the passing of one of my dear friends, former Congressman Ed Jenkins of Georgia. Ed served in the House of Representatives from 1977 to 1993. He was a strong advocate for his district and for this country. Throughout his time in Congress, Ed was a leader in protecting the South's textile industry. He was a champion for the workers in those factories and communities who depended on them for their livelihood.

Edgar Jenkins was born in Young Harris, Georgia, on January 4, 1933. He graduated from Young Harris College in 1951. Before he got his law degree from the University of Georgia, he served admirably in the United States Coast Guard for three years. He also served as an Assistant Attorney General in Georgia from 1962 to 1964.

Throughout his tenure, Ed was well-admired by many for his knowledge and devotion to the issues. He protected workers throughout the country by strongly advocating keeping textile jobs in the United States. He pushed for the Textile and Apparel Trade Enforcement Act, ultimately helping its passage in the United States House of Representatives. It was his behind-the-scenes efforts that made him one of the most admirable and intelligent members of Congress.

Congressman Jenkins represented his country with distinction during difficult points in American history. His contribution to this country and the people of Georgia will not soon be forgotten.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300-132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,236,236,452,380.40. We've added \$10,434,831,277,086.12 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall No. 5 and rollcall No. 6 on January 23, 2012, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted to suspend the rules and pass both H.R. 1141 and H.R. 3117.

RECOGNIZING JANUARY AS NA- TIONAL GLAUCOMA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take the opportunity to recognize January as National Glaucoma Awareness Month. Glaucoma is an insidious class of diseases that robs hundreds of thousands of Americans of their sight. The Glaucoma Research Foundation reports that over 2.2 million Americans have glaucoma, with approximately 120,000 Americans being blind as a result of the disorder.

Glaucoma is the leading cause of preventable blindness and accounts for between 9 percent to 12 percent of all cases of blindness. Glaucoma affects people of all ages but is more common among people who are middle-aged or elderly. As with many health problems, glaucoma disproportionately affects people of color, with glaucoma representing the leading cause of blindness for African American and Latino individuals. Research indicates that this group of eye diseases is 6 to 8 times more common in African Americans than Caucasian Americans. Those who are diabetic or severely nearsighted are further at heightened risk for developing glaucoma.

Glaucoma presents few if any symptoms of its onset; those affected can lose as much as 40 percent of their vision prior to noticing the vision loss. Unfortunately, there is no cure for glaucoma; however, amazing advances are occurring to prevent further visual loss. Medications that slow the progression are critical and steps toward optic nerve cell regeneration

are being made. I am proud that many skilled researchers in Chicago are working to advance the prevention and treatment of glaucoma, including experts at Rush University Medical Center, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Northwestern University Medical School.

National Glaucoma Awareness Month is designed to raise awareness of this group of eye diseases and to encourage individuals to get tested. Given the lack of cure for glaucoma, early detection is incredibly important. Thus, I lend my voice to the cause of raising awareness of glaucoma and encouraging Americans to get regular eye exams to identify early any potential visual problems.

A TRIBUTE TO CLARK SHUSTER

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work and leadership of Clark Shuster, President of the Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce (LBCCC). The Chamber plays an important role in economic and business development in my District and Mr. Shuster has been leading this important work as president since 1985. Under Mr. Shuster's leadership, the LBCCC has partnered with over 1000 members including small, medium and large business firms in the community.

Mr. Shuster has worked with the community to develop mentorship, communication, and education programs that foster free enterprise and provide businesses with opportunities to succeed.

Clark has also been a part of the Bucks County community for his entire life. He grew up in Bucks County and attended High School at Central Bucks East. Today, Clark lives in Newtown, Pennsylvania with his wife Jane. Not only is he an active leader in the local business community, but he has provided his efforts and leadership to other community organizations such as the Lower Bucks YMCA and the Levittown Fairless Hills Rotary Club.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Clark Shuster's hard work, dedication and devotion to bettering our Bucks County community and for his support of local business and free enterprise within the Eighth District of Pennsylvania and I wish him all the best in the years ahead.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of a quick conclusion and passage of a multi-year Federal Aviation Administration Authorization. On Friday afternoon, I was pleased to see that a compromise was reached regarding language on union elections under the National Mediation Board. It was almost a year ago on February 11, 2011 that the FAA Air Transportation Modernization and Safety Improvement Act was introduced. During this time, Congress passed